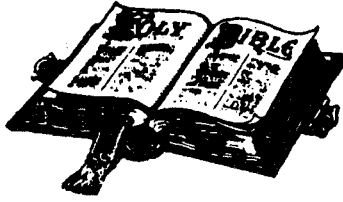


THE INSTRUCTOR



"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." 2 Timothy 3:16

Volume 32

JULY, 1995

Number 7

CHRISTIANS ARE SONS AND DAUGHTERS

Disciples (i.e., Christians) are **sons and daughters!** John declares: **"He came unto His own, and His own received Him not. But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the SONS OF GOD, even to them that believe on His name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."** (John 1:11-13). In 1 John 3:1-2 we read; **"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the SONS OF GOD: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew Him not. Beloved, now are we the SONS OF GOD: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew Him not. Beloved, now are we the SONS OF GOD, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is."** In writing to Christians in Galatia, Paul said: **"And because ye are SONS, God hath sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father."** (4:6). In speaking of God to saints (i.e., Christians) Paul declared: **"And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be MY SONS AND DAUGHTERS, saith the Lord Almighty."** (2 Cor. 6:18).

As SONS and DAUGHTERS of the

Almighty God we have the blessed privilege of talking to our Heavenly Father in prayer! Others do not have this privilege! (Read and carefully study 1 Peter 3:12; Luke 11:1-4; John 9:31; 1 John 3:22; 5:14 & 1 Thess. 5:17).

As SONS and DAUGHTERS of Almighty God we will receive chastening of the Lord! This is for our benefit! (Read and carefully consider Hebrews 12:5-11; 1 Cor. 11:31-32; Rev. 3:19; James 1:2-4 and James 1:12).

As SONS and DAUGHTERS of the Lord Almighty we have a way of escape provided with every temptation! (See 1 Cor. 10:13).

As SONS and DAUGHTERS of Almighty God we are admonished to "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus!" (Phil. 4:6-7).

As SONS and DAUGHTERS we are heirs of God! (See Rom. 8:15-18; Gal. 4:4-7; 3:26-29; Heb. 1:14 & Titus 3:7).

To be a true CHILD OF GOD one must be led by the Spirit of God! (See Rom. 8:14).

(CRS)

THE INSTRUCTOR

(USPS #581680)

Published monthly in the interest of truth and righteousness by the congregation of Christ, meeting at 4777 U.S. Highway 431, in Albertville, Alabama.

CARROL R. SUTTON
Editor

Send all questions, comments and criticisms to the **editor**, 4777 U.S. Highway 431, Albertville, Alabama 35950.

Second-class postage paid in
Albertville, AL 35950

Editorial ...

HEARING

Hearing is an important subject! Many will be eternally lost because they **refuse** to hear. Let us consider some things the **Word of God** teaches about **hearing**.

WHAT SHOULD WE HEAR? In Mark 4:24 Jesus said unto His disciples: **"Take heed what ye hear. With what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you; and unto you that hear shall more be given."**

We are to hear, but it is obvious that we are to be careful that we hear the right thing. We should hear the **truth!** It is **"the power of God unto salvation"**. (See Romans 1:16. We should hear the **Word of Christ!** We will be judged by His **word** in the last day. (See John 12:48). The word of Christ, the truth, the gospel is revealed in the Scriptures.

We should **"Search the Scriptures"** to see if the things we hear are found in the Scriptures. (See John 5:39; Acts 17:11-12). If they are not taught in the Scriptures, we should **reject** them.

WHO SHOULD WE HEAR? We should **not** hear **false** teachers! We learn this fact by a reading of the following passages.

1. MATTHEW 7:15-16: **"Be-**

ware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?"

2. 2 PETER 2:1-3: **"But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; By reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. And through coveteousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not."**

3. 1 JOHN 4:1: **Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world."**

4. 2 JOHN 9-11: **"Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that bid-deth him God speed is partaker of his evil deed."**

We should hear God as He speaks through Jesus Christ as revealed in the **New Testament Scriptures**. A reading of the following passages will tell us this.

1. MATTHEW 17:5: **"...This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him."**

2. ACTS 3:22-23: **"...Him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever**

(Continued on page 3)

HEARING

He shall say unto you. And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that Prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people."

3. HEBREWS 1:1-2:

"God,...Hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son, whom He hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also He made the worlds."

4. HEBREWS 2:1-3: **"Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward; How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard Him?"**

Each of us should take heed as to **WHAT** we hear and **WHO** we hear!

HOW SHOULD WE HEAR?

1. We should **NOT** be **dull of hearing!** (See Acts 28:25-27 & Hebrews 5:11).

2. We should **desire** to hear! Sergius Paulus was a prudent man, **"who called for Barnabas and Saul, and desired to hear the word of God."** (Also see Mt. 5:6 & 1 Peter 2:2).

3. We should be **"swift to hear."** (See James 1:19).

4. We should take heed **how** we hear! Jesus said: **Take heed therefore how ye hear: for whosoever hath, to him shall be given; and whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he seemeth to have."** (Luke 8:18).

5. We should determine to hear **gladly!** We learn from Mark 12:37

that **"...the common people heard Him gladly."** On the day of Pentecost in Acts 2, **"...they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls."** (Verse 41).

6. We should **NOT forget** what we hear, but we should be **"doers of the word."** James admonishes: **"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves... But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed."** (1:25). We should so **"speak"** and **"do"** as they that shall be **"judged by the law of liberty."** (James 2:12).

WHY SHOULD WE HEAR?

1. We should hear because we are **commanded** to hear! Remember the apostle Peter admonished: **"Him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever He shall say unto you."** (Acts 3:22).

2. We should hear because we will be **condemned if we do not!** Peter warned saying: **"And it shall come to pass, that every soul which will not hear that Prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people."** (Acts 3:23).

3. We must hear the **Word of God in order to receive faith!** Paul declared: **"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God."** (Romans 10:17) Also read Acts 4:4; 18:8 & Heb. 4:1-2.

4. We should hear because a **blessing is promised** to those who hear! Revelation 1:3 says: **Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand."**

"CHRISTIAN"

The name **Christian** is often **abused** by the world (religious and secular) and **misused** by many of the people of God! The following facts should be both interesting and profitable to us.

1. The word **Christian** is NOT found in the Old Testament Scriptures! NOTE: God's people were never called **Christians** until after Jesus Christ died on the cross and built His church!

2. The word **Christian** appears in the New Testament Scriptures only **three** times! Here they are.

Acts 11:26: "**And the disciples were called CHRISTIANS first in Antioch.**"

Acts 26:28: **Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a CHRISTIAN.**"

1 Peter 4:16: "**Yet if any man suffer as a CHRISTIAN, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.**"

Christians are people, NOT mere things!

(CRS)

(Continued from page 3)

HEARING

5. We should hear in order to be saved! You cannot believe and obey the Will of God unless you understand it. But you cannot understand it unless you hear it. Only those who HEAR will be saved eternally! (See 1 Timothy 4:16).

It is very important that we hear the truth as revealed in the Scriptures! That is how God speaks to us through Jesus Christ! It is also vital that we have the proper attitude as we hear! Jesus said: "**If any man have ears to hear, let him hear**". (Mark 4:23).

(CRS)

GOSPEL MEETINGS

Beattyville, Kentucky - September 10-15, 1995.

Pine Grove, Clay Co., Kentucky - October 15-20, 1995.

- SENTENCE SERMONS -

Wisdom can do better without wealth than wealth can do without wisdom.

* * * * *

A man is like steel - no good when the temper is lost.

* * * * *

No man ever has the right (from God) to do wrong.

* * * * *

Eternal torment is at the end of a Christless life.

* * * * *

If alcoholism is a disease, it is a self-imposed one.

CHURCH OF CHRIST
4777 U.S. Highway 431
Albertville, Alabama 35950

Second-Class Postage